

## APPENDIX B

### AUGUST GEIGER

August Geiger was born in New Haven, Connecticut, in September 1887. Geiger grew up in New Haven and began vacationing in the Miami area with his family around 1899. After completing his formal education at Boardman's Manual Training School, Geiger decided to study architecture and secured a position with a New Haven firm. In 1905, Geiger moved his permanent residence to Miami, working for a local architectural firm for six years before opening his own practice. Geiger opened a second office in Palm Beach in 1915; at that time, he and Addison Mizner were the only architects with offices in the growing resort city.<sup>1</sup>

Geiger experimented with a number of architectural styles during his career in South Florida, including the Mission, Italian Renaissance, and Art Deco.<sup>2</sup> Geiger is best known, however, for introducing the Spanish Colonial or Mediterranean Revival style to the area in 1915 with his design for the Miami City Hospital, locally known as "the Alamo." This building and the Miami Beach Municipal Golf Course House, built in 1916, were similar in design and appearance:

*In both buildings...Geiger employed a classical sense of design through elements like scale, proportion and symmetry, befitting the architect's Beaux Arts training. These elements were expressed in a Spanish idiom of applied stucco ornaments, arcaded ground floor loggia and a tile roof. Not truly Spanish, the style was inspired rather by the architecture of California, Texas and New Mexico during the years of Spanish territoriality. Geiger had actually created the earliest traceable example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in Miami.*<sup>3</sup>

Geiger's designs were popular with the wealthy industrial class that vacationed in South Florida, and his firm built many of their winter homes in Miami Beach and elsewhere. Geiger also served as the architect of the Dade County School Board and designed several schools in the county. The Geiger firm additionally designed churches, commercial buildings, and hotels, including Carl Fisher's first hotel on Miami Beach, the Lincoln.

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<sup>1</sup>James O. Jones Company, *The Book of Florida*, (N.p.: Florida Editors Association, 1925), 347; Donald W. Curl, *Mizner's Florida: American Resort Architecture*, American Monograph Series (New York: Architectural History Foundation; Cambridge: MIT Press, 1984), 62; George M. Chapin, *Florida, 1513-1913, Past, Present and Future* (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing, 1914), 599-600.

<sup>2</sup>Metropolitan Dade County Office of Community and Economic Development, Historic Preservation Division, 86; Armbruster, 35.

<sup>3</sup>Metropolitan Dade County Office of Community and Economic Development, Historic Preservation Division, 87-88.

### **Partial List of Geiger's Buildings**

This chronological list of buildings designed by August Geiger is based on secondary sources,<sup>4</sup> with no examinations of the buildings themselves. Some of these structures have been demolished, and some may be duplicates.

*Neva Cooper School*, built as the Homestead Public School (1914), is located at 520 NW 1st Avenue in Homestead. Geiger described this building as being in the Mission style, although it lacks some of the important characteristics of that style as defined today. The school is listed on the National Register.

Geiger designed Carl Fisher's first hotel on Miami Beach, the *Lincoln Hotel*, which was constructed in 1914 or 1916 at the southwest corner of present Washington Avenue and Lincoln Road. The 32-room building was intended to be an apartment house. The hotel was modeled after Italian Renaissance buildings. The "first luxury accommodations on the Beach" opened its doors on January 20, 1917, but by 1921 was considered "too rustic" to meet Fisher's needs. The site of the hotel is located within the Art Deco District.

The clubhouse of the *Miami Beach Municipal Golf Course* (1915) is located at 2100 Washington Avenue. More recent names for the structure are the Miami Beach Community Center, the Washington Avenue Community Center, and the Carl Fisher Clubhouse. This is the oldest building remaining on Miami Beach and is included in the Art Deco Historic District. This is believed to be the first use of Mediterranean style architecture on the Beach and one of the first in the Miami area.

The *Alamo* (constructed 1915-1918) is the popular name given to the Mediterranean style building located at 1611 NW 12th Avenue in Miami. This is the original building of the Miami City Hospital (Jackson Memorial Hospital) and, along with the Miami Beach Municipal Golf Course Clubhouse, the first use of the Mediterranean style in the Miami area. Geiger won a competition to design the hospital. The building is listed on the National Register.

The *Hindu Temple* is a residence built for John Seybold, a Miami merchant, in 1920. Seybold was inspired to request this house from Geiger by a similar structure built as part of a movie set on this same site, 870 NW 11th Street, Miami.

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<sup>4</sup>Material for the list was compiled from: Metropolitan Dade County Office of Community and Economic Development, Historic Preservation Division; Patricios; *The Book of Florida*; Barbara Baer Capitman, *Deco Delights: Preserving the Beauty and Joy of Miami Beach Architecture* (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1988); Armbruster; Kleinberg; *Florida Architecture and Allied Arts*, 1939, 1940, 1941; Curl; Works Progress Administration; and Patricia Gabriel, *The Villagers' Book of Outstanding Homes of Miami* (Coral Gables, Fla.: University of Miami Press, 1975).

*St. Francis Hospital*, 250 W 63rd Street, Miami Beach, was built in 1924 in the Mediterranean style, although the building had been “greatly altered” by 1982.

*Carl Fisher Residence* (1925). This was Fisher’s second house on Miami Beach and is located in the 5000 block of North Bay Road. The house was constructed in the Neo-Classical style, reportedly modeled after Italian villas of the Renaissance. The house originally included a large rectangular tower from which Fisher and his prospective customers could look out over Miami Beach. The tower has since been removed.

*Miami Women’s Club* (1925) was originally built as the Flagler Library, 1737 North Bayshore Drive in Miami. Geiger won a competition judged by the AIA to design this building. The building is listed on the National Register.

Geiger acted as associate architect with A.. Ten Eyck Brown, of Atlanta, on the *Dade County Courthouse* (1925), located at 73 W. Flagler Street. The 27-story, Neo-Classical style building is listed on the National Register.

In 1925 Geiger designed the *First Church of Christ, Scientist* at 1836 Biscayne Boulevard in Miami. The *WPA Guide to Miami* describes the church as “an excellent example of the simplicity and purity of ancient Greek architecture.”

The 1925 *Book of Florida* reports that Geiger had constructed “the *Maison des Beaux Arts* Building on Lincoln Road to provide ideal shops for the beach.” The building, located within the Art Deco District, was built in the early 1920s.

Kleinberg reports that Geiger designed the *Allison Hospital* for Jim Allison, a friend of Carl Fisher. The three-story building was in the “Spanish Style” and was built by John Orr. The building cost \$3.5 million to construct and was opened on January 1, 1926. (This might be the same building as the St. Francis Hospital described above.)

The *Ida M. Fisher Junior High School*, 1424 Drexel Avenue in Miami Beach, was constructed in 1936 as the Miami Beach Senior High School. The Mediterranean style building was designed by Geiger and constructed by the Public Works Administration (PWA). The school is located in the Art Deco district.

*North Beach Elementary School*, 711 Arthur Godfrey Road, Miami Beach, was constructed in 1936.

Built in 1937, the *Chase Federal Bank* building originally housed the Chase Federal Savings and Loan. The address is variously given as 1630 Lenox Avenue or 1100 Lincoln Road in Miami

Beach. Patricios calls this building “one of the last Moderne works in Miami Beach,” while Capitman calls it “one of the last works of this master of the Federal Deco style.” An alteration to the building is illustrated in the 1941 edition of *Florida Architecture and Allied Arts*.

The 1939 issue of *Florida Architecture and Allied Arts* includes photographs of “*Residence of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Steiner*, Miami Beach, Florida,” designed by Geiger.

The 1939 issue of *Florida Architecture and Allied Arts* includes photographs of “*Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Mark C. Honeywell*, Miami Beach, Florida,” designed by Geiger. The *Miami Social Register* gives Honeywell’s address as 4567 Pine Tree Drive, Miami Beach, each year from 1936 through 1945.

Addition to the *Central Elementary School*, Miami Beach, Florida

*Railey-Milam Store Building*, Miami, Florida, Modernized

*Studio of Mr. Mark C. Honeywell*, Wabash, Indiana

A commercial building for *S. A. Ryan*